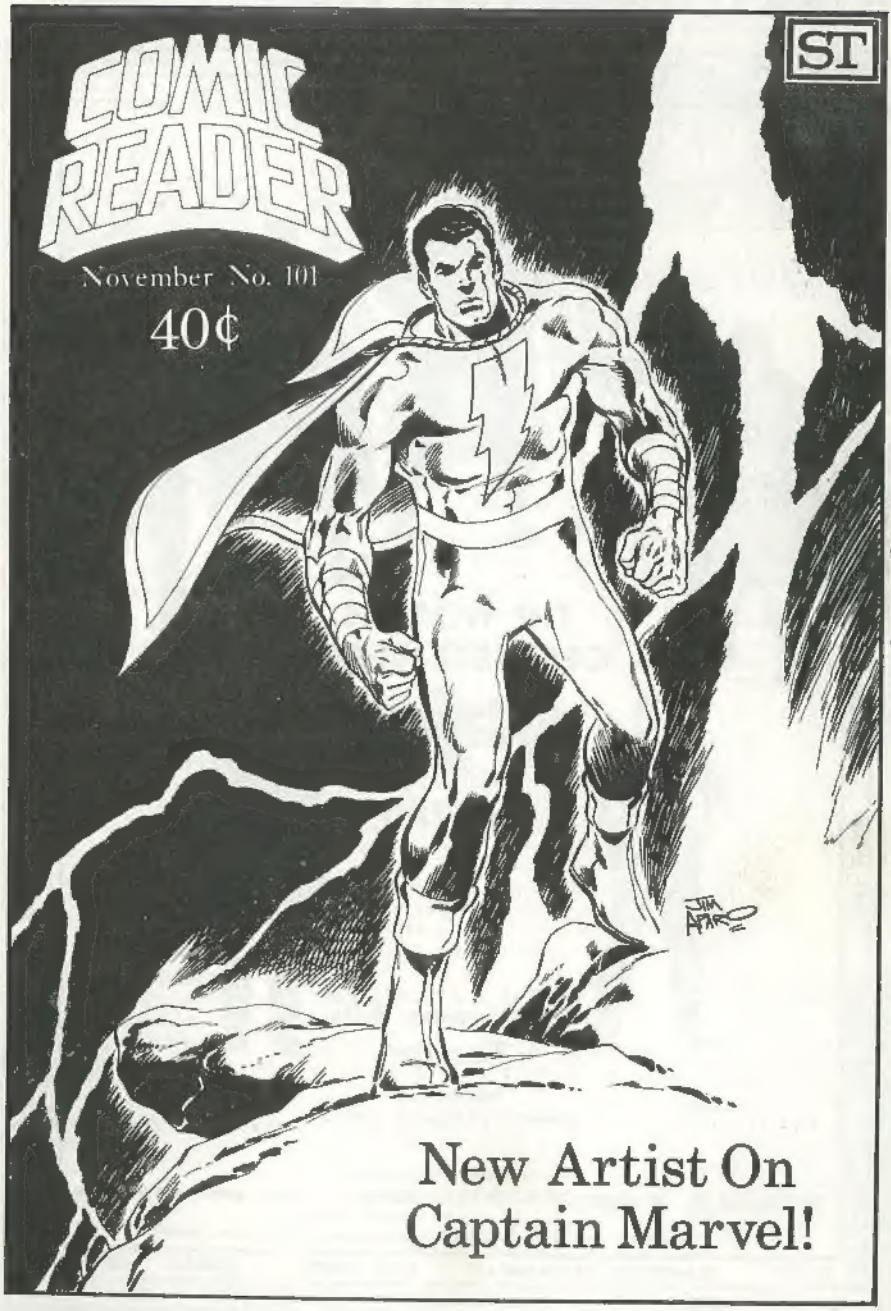
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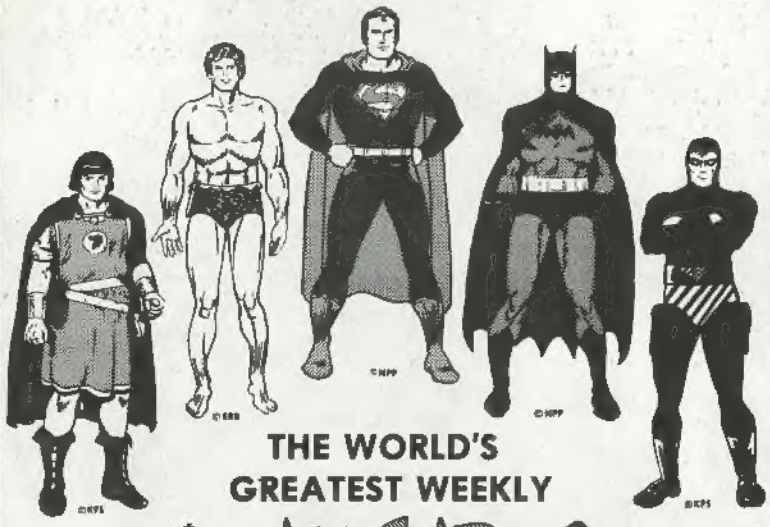

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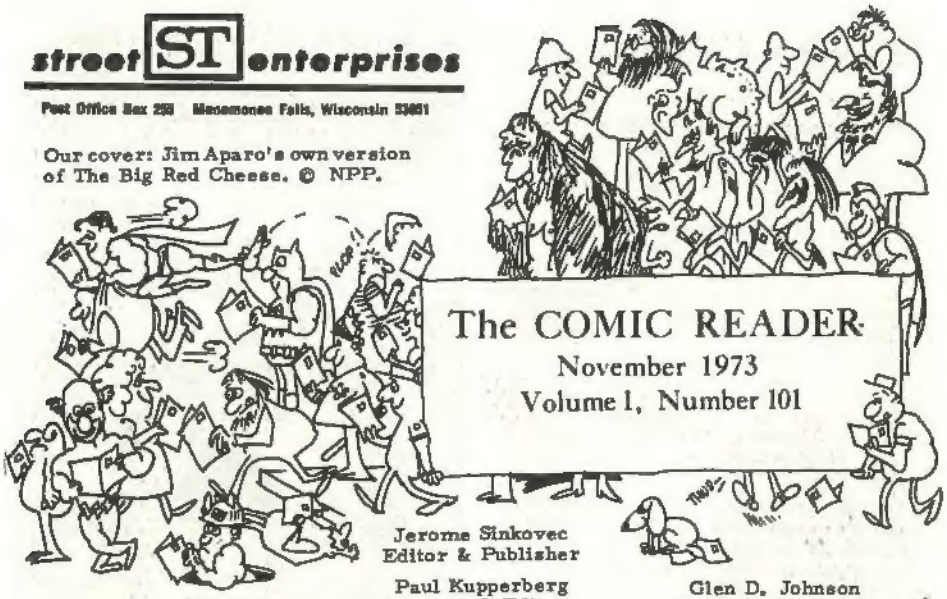

The COMIC READER

November 1973
Volume I, Number 101

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National News

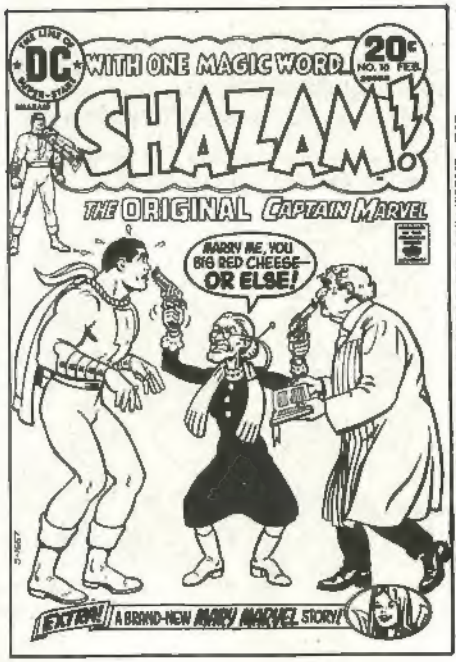
SHAZAM GETS NEW ARTIST!

Bob Oksner, as of issue #10 of SHAZAM!, will be handling the pencilling end of the strip, with an occasional fill-in job by Kurt Schaffenberger. Vince Colletta will be inking Oksner.

C. C. Beck left due to a disagreement between himself and National Periodicals of how the SHAZAM! book should be written and illustrated.

Beck's art, famous for the portrayal of the BIG RED CHEESE during the 40's, will last appear in "Prize Catch of the Year" in SHAZAM! #10.

The Limited Collector Edition $1 Books are now on a regular schedule. Thanksgiving week will see publication of the second RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED RAINDEER $1 Book (C-24). RUDOLPH, if you'll remember, is the title that began the COLLECTOR EDITIONS series last year.



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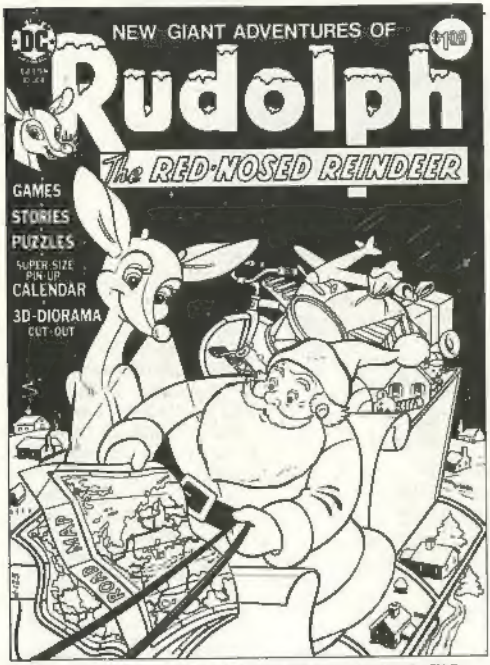

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RIMA, THE JUNGLE GIRL (previewed last issue), Joe Kubert's new title, is finally on the schedule, with the first issue due out sometime in January. The back feature in RIMA will be a science-fiction series called VOYAGER, written by Robert Kanigher and drawn by Alex Nino.

Plans for WONDER WOMAN and SUPERGIRL under the editorial control of Julius Schwartz have been made. WONDER WOMAN (which he picks up with #212) will have WW, now that she has her powers back, taking on a self-imposed trial to prove to herself that she is worthy of rejoining the JUSTICE LEAGUE. Each issue will be narrated by a different member of the JLA, starting with SUPERMAN. Len Wein will be scripting. When Elliot Maggin takes over the scripting of SUPERGIRL, he will transfer her from California to Florida where she's won a position as a teen-age advisor at a high school.

The AQUAMAN origin that is scheduled for SECRET ORIGINS #7 is the first origin story from MORE FUN #73 by Mort Weisenger and Paul Norris.

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Neal Adams has done a fill-in GREEN LANTERN story for the March FLASH (#226).

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE
FROM NATIONAL PERIODICALS

It has come to the Publisher's attention that valuable original artwork representing fictional characters of which Publisher is the copyright owner has been stolen from the Publisher's archives and is currently being offered for sale.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any person, firm, or corporation who is found to possess this artwork or is found selling or attempting to sell or otherwise distribute this artwork will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the Federal Copyright Act and all other applicable federal and state statutes. Anyone with knowledge of the whereabouts of this artwork or the events leading to its theft from the Publisher is urged to contact Publisher immediately.

Mr. Carmine Infantino
National Periodical Publications, Inc.
75 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York, 10019

The BLACK ORCHID will be taking over the spot that will be left in the back of PHANTOM STRANGER when THE SPAWN OF FRANKENSTEIN series concludes its run in PS #30. Mike Fleisher and Tony DeZuniga will handle the creative end on the ORCHID.

There will be an occasional book-length PHANTOM STRANGER story, something that has not been seen for quite some time.

ADVENTURE COMICS DEPT.

The SPECTRE story in ADVENTURE #434 will be a book-lengther.

An upcoming ADVENTUERER'S CLUB story is called "Year 700 ATB (After the Bomb)" and it is by Shelly Mayer. It's a weird story in the same vein as those that used to appear in DC's old MY GREATEST ADVENTURE magazine. The story is not yet scheduled.

Last issue it was mentioned that an unpublished Golden Age SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY script was found buried in the files at National. Some artists have been chosen for a few chapters, and they are: Dick Dillin for the introductory and closing chapters, Lee Elias, who will return to do GREEN ARROW once more, and Howie Chaykin, who has already finished the pencils on the SHINING KNIGHT chapter. The story is to run in serial form in ADVENTURE #435 - 438.

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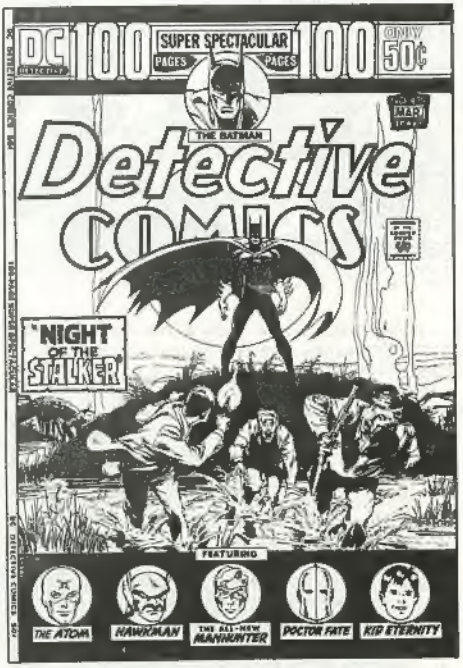
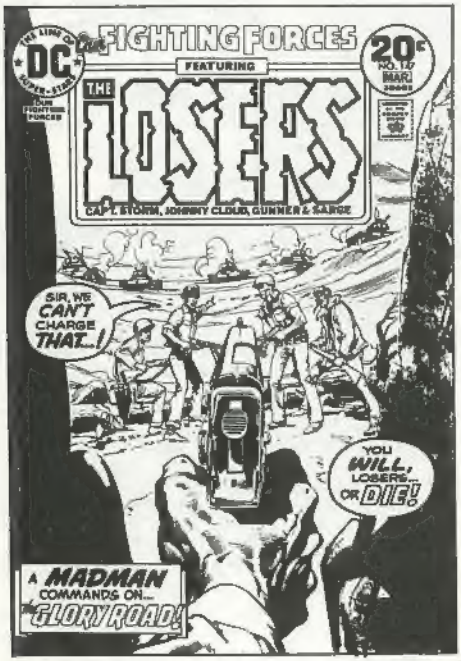
A member of the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES who was thought to be dead will re-appear in the near future. A few new additions to the ranks of the legion are also planned.

Future BRAVE AND BOLD team-ups will find BATMAN with AQUAMAN (for the second time around), the METAL MEN (for the third time), and, for the first time, MISTER MIRACLE.




THE LINE OF DC SUPER-STARS
OUR FIGHTING FORCES
FEATURING
20¢
THE LOSERS
CAPT. STORM, JOHNNY CLOUD, GUNNER & SARGE
SIR, WE CAN'T CHARGE THAT...!
YOU WILL, LOSERS... OR DIE!
A MADMAN COMMANDS ON... THE GLORY ROAD!

Not yet scheduled, but currently in the works, is a three part ENEMY ACE vs. BALLOON BUSTER story to appear in the back of STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES. The story is by Robert Kanigher and Frank Thorne.

Also scheduled in a future issue of STAR SPANGLED WAR is a very nicely done sequel to "UFM" (a science fiction story that appeared earlier in SSWS) by Gerry Boudreau and Walt Simonson called "Return".

Marvel News

DOCTOR STRANGE will be regaining his own title. Whether it will start at #184 -- where it left off before its 1969 discontinuance -- or #1, is undecided at this time. Strange's last MARVEL PREMIERE appearance is #14.

Replacing DOCTOR STRANGE will be a second Kung Fu takeoff, IRONFIST, developed by Roy Thomas and Gil Kane.

Steve Englehart takes over the scripting chores on CAPTAIN MARVEL with issue #33. Jim Starlin will continue to plot the book.

Both CAPTAIN MARVEL and DOCTOR STRANGE have jumped in sales since their respective revampments. CAPTAIN MARVEL was on the verge of cancellation prior to Jim Starlin's takeover, and though sales on STRANGE had been solid, the decision to give him his own book was made on the basis of Steve Englehart and Frank Brunner's work.

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Mike Ploog takes over the art chores on MAN-THING beginning with number 5.

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I SHOULD STICK TO READING COMIC BOOKS DEPT.

Last issue's Coming Comics incorrectly credited the art on DOCTOR STRANGE to John Brunner. As I (and the person who was supposed to "edit" TCR) should have known, FRANK is the artist and JOHN is the science-fiction author. Mea Culpa.

OTHER ASSORTED BOO-BOO's DEPT.

"Fear Stalker" (DRACULA LIVES! #4) and the second part of the Hangman story in WEREWOLF #12 were incorrectly credited to Mike Friedrich. They were actually written by Marv Wolfman. Beg pardon, Marv.

WUNDARR, who first appeared in FEAR #17, will continue as a regular in MARVEL-TWO-IN-ONE after the story revolving around him in the second issue. Another regular character will be the SUB-MARINER's young cousin, NITA.

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #29 will wind up the current adaptation of "Thongor and the Wizard of Lemuria." After that, Steve Gerber will write some new stories before going on to the next book.

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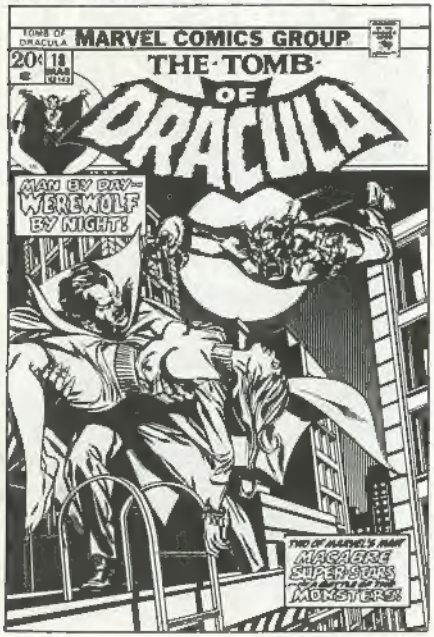
TOMB OF DRACULA
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
20¢
18
THE TOMB OF DRACULA
MAN BY DAY—WEREWOLF BY NIGHT!
TWO OF MARVEL'S MOST MACABRE SUPER-STARS IN A BATTLE TO THE MONSTERS!

Starting with number 108 of the book, the BLACK WIDOW'S name will be dropped from the cover logo of DAREDEVIL. She will, however, continue to appear in the strip. Meanwhile, DD has moved back to New York City for the time being while Natasha remains in San Francisco.

SPIDER-MAN #130 features a shock ending that is guaranteed to have the same impact as did the death of Gwen Stacy a few issues back!

Gil Kane will probably be pencilling, for at least one issue, the MORBIUS color-series in FEAR. Steve Gerber remains on the scripting.

Jim Mooney has taken over the art on SON OF SATAN in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT starting with number 14.

The new feature that will appear in SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS, supplanting the current fantasy adaptations, will be THE VICTIMS OF DRACULA.

Has everyone noticed that Tony Isabella's initials reversed are "IT," which supposedly has some mystic significance? (Co-Editor Mike is unimpressed as HIS initials reversed appear on EVERY Marvel cover THREE times.)

HERCULES will guest star in a three part story in THOR starting with THOR #221.

MAN-THING will be appearing in a regular strip in MONSTERS UNLEASHED starting with #5. The strip will be handled by Tony Isabella and Vicente Alcazar.

Speaking of Tony Isabella, he is leaving his staff job at Marvel and is being replaced by Doug Moench. Tony will continue to be active in the black and white magazines.

All of the black and white titles are being moved back up to bi-monthly schedules. CRAZY will, however, be moved up to a seven-times-a-year schedule. A few new b+w titles are currently under consideration.

The third issue of CRAZY will feature take-offs on The Waltons ("The Walnuts" by Marv Wolfman and Marie Severin), three mini-take-offs on High Plains Drifter ("Plain High Drifter"), Soylant Green ("Soiled Green"), and Last Tango in Paris ("Last Tangle in Paris"), all by Steve Skeates, Marv Wolfman, and Enrique Ventura. The history of the Moose by Bob Foster continues, plus more. The cover is by Kelly Freas.

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National Coming Comics

COMING COMICS is a listing of upcoming releases from the major comic art publishers. The "on sale" dates are from the publishers' production schedules and serve as approximate indications of when your local distributor will place the material on display. The following is the format of each listing:

TITLE (Number, cover date). A description of all known contents, credits for the feature/s in this order: writer, artist, inker. (On sale date)(Price if other than 20¢)

●

OUR ARMY AT WAR (265, February). John Severin's first SGT. ROCK job appears this issue in a story called "The Brother" written by Bob Kanigher. Also, another USS STEVENS by Sam Glanzman entitled "Rocco's Roost." Cover by Joe Kubert. (11/1)

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THE STRANGEST TEAM-UP IN HISTORY
the BRAVE and the BOLD
20¢
BATMAN AND THE JOKER
WANTED
THE JOKER
STAY BACK! NOBODY LAYS A HAND ON MY BOOMERANG WHILE I'M AROUND!
"DEATH HAS THE LAST LAUGH"

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GHOSTS (23, February). Stories this issue are "The Spectral Avenger" by Gerry Talaoc, "The Jinx That Rode The Skies" by Sam Glanzman, "Death Is My Darling" by Fred Carillo, "The Most Haunted House In England" by N. Rotera and Alcala, and a text feature entitled "Our Son The Spectre." Cover by Nick Cardy. (11/1)

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD (111, Feb.-March). Perhaps the oddest team-up for the BATMAN to date! The BATMAN and the Joker in "Death Has The Last Laugh" by Bob Haney and Jim Aparo. Cover by Aparo. (11/1)

YOUNG LOVE SUPER SPECTACULAR (108, Feb.-March). New material by Joe Simon along with reprints. (11/1) (50¢)

●

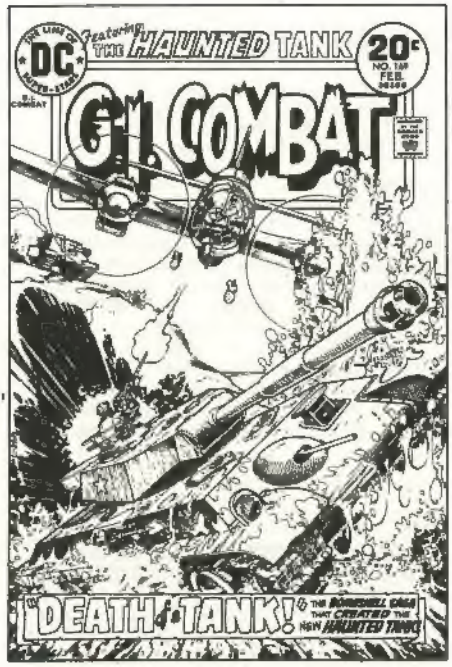
MISTER MIRACLE (18, Feb.-March). The last issue of MISTER MIRACLE is also one of the most spectacular as we witness "Wild, Wild Wedding Guests." Scott Free and Big Barda finally decide to tie the knot, but their wedding is anything but peaceful. Vermon Vunderbarr, Granny Goodness and Dr. Bedlam return to plague the newlyweds, but the NEW GODS show up to save the day. Darkseid makes a brief appearance. Written and drawn by Jack Kirby, inked and lettered by Mike Royer. Cover by Kirby and Royer. (11/6)

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (222, February). This issue features "Vengeance Is Mine" by Jack Oleck and Quico Redondo, and "Night of the Teddy Bear" by Mike Fleisher, Russell Carley, and Alfredo Alcala. Cover by Luis Dominguez. (11/6)

WONDER WOMAN (210, Feb.-March). Wonder Woman comes up against "The Shrinking Formula" in this issue's lead feature by Bob Kanigher, Ric Estrada and Vince Colletta. The second story has WW against "The Golden Women" by the same team as above. Cover by Estrada and Colletta. (11/6)

G.I. COMBAT (169, February). The origin of the HAUNTED TANK is reprinted in this issue. The story is called "Death of a Tank" and it's by Bob Kanigher and Russ Heath. Sam Glanzman contributes a Warrior Page on General Rommel. The back-up feature is "Peace With Honor," written and drawn by Ric Estrada. Cover by Walt Simonson. (11/8)

THE UNEXPECTED (155, February). In this issue: "Non-Stop Journey to Fear" drawn by Don Perlin, "The Creep In The Caboose" drawn by Nestor Redondo, and "Goodnight, Sweet Nightmares" drawn by Abe Ocampo. Cover by Cardy. (11/8)



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PHANTOM STRANGER (29, Feb.-March). The STRANGER's foe from issue 27, Dr. Zorn returns this issue in "The Devil Dolls of Doctor Z" by Arnold Drake and Gerry Talaoc. THE SPAWN OF FRANKENSTEIN finds the "Snake God Revealed" in a tale by Steve Skeates and Bernard Baily. Cover by Dominguez. (11/8)

●

KAMANDI (14, February). The story concerning the race at Hialeah with KAMANDI and Kliklak concludes this issue. Dr. Canus and Tough Time return. Written and drawn by Jack Kirby, inked and lettered by Mike Royer. (11/13)

WITCHING HOUR (39, February). In this issue: "The Phantom Pharoah"(art by Ernie Chua), "Act of Violence" (art by Artie Saff), "Frozen Stiff" (also by Saff), and "What Fiend Dwells In Me?" (art by E. R. Cruz). Cover by Cardy. (11/13)

OUR FIGHTING FORCES (147, Feb.-March). THE LOSERS in "The Glory Road" by John Severin, written by Bob Kanigher. Also, "Arena" by Steve Mitchell and Ken Barr. Cover by Neal Adams. (11/13)

SUPERMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR (272, February). All reprint material. "Mr. Mxyzptlk Returns" is the second story featuring the impossible imp (from Action #80). Hocus and Pocus meet up with SUPERMAN in "The Magicians Convention" from Action #86. ZATANNA and GREEN LANTERN in "The Other Side of the World." "The Demons From Pandora's Box" is a JIMMY OLSEN story, and "Beauty And the Super Beast" features SUPERMAN. In case you haven't yet guessed, this is a special All-Magic issue. Cover by Cardy. (11/15)(50¢)

THE SHADOW (3, Feb.-March). Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? THE SHADOW knows and he finds plenty of evil in the "Kingdom of the Cobra." The script is by Denny O'Neil, with art by Mike Kaluta and Berni Wrightson. The cover is by Kaluta. (11/15)

PREZ (4, Feb.-March). The PREZ receives the ambassador from Transylvania only to find that he has a "Vampire In The White House!" Written by Joe Simon with art and cover by Jerry Grandenetti (11/15)

KORAK (56, Feb.-March). The search for Miriam continues! KORAK in "The Mound of Skulls" by Bob Kanigher and Murphy Anderson. Also in this issue is another installment of CARSON OF VENUS entitled "Babes In The Woods" by Mike Kaluta. Cover by Joe Kubert. (11/15)

●

HOUSE OF SECRETS (116, February). In this issue: "Like Father, Like Son" by Jack Oleck and Nestor Redondo, and "Puglyon's Crypt" by David Michelie and Ramona Fradon (who has just recently returned to comics after a several year absence). Cover by Luis Dominguez. (11/20)

JIMMY OLSEN (163, Feb.-March). JIMMY appears in two stories this issue: "A World That Came Before" and "Rip-Off on Pier 13," both by Leo Dorfman and Kurt Schaffenberger. Cover by Cardy. (11/20)

FORBIDDEN TALES OF DARK MANSION (15, Feb.-March). This issue features an introductory page by Howie Chaykin, "A Slay Ride with Santa" by Mike Fleisher, Russell Carley and Dan Green, "Feathertop" by Gerry Boudreau (adapted from a story by Nathaniel Hawthorne) with art by Alex Nino, and "The Demon Horn" by Gerry Boudreau and Gerry Talaoc. Cover by Nick Cardy. (11/20)

CHAMPION SPORTS (3, Feb.-March). In this issue: "Wide-Bill Hickok", "Jack the Giants Killer", and "Horse Story", all by Joe Simon and Jerry Grandenetti (who also did the cover). (11/22)

SHAZAM! (10, February). Bob Oksner makes his debut as the new artist on CAPTAIN MARVEL (see the news section for details) in this issue's "The Invasion of the Salad Men" scripted by Elliot Maggin and inked by Vince Colletta. The cover story is "Prize Catch of the Year" by E. Nelson Bridwell and C. C. Beck. MARY MARVEL appears in "The Thanksgiving Thieves" by E. Nelson Bridwell and Oksner. This is the first of the new rotating MARY MARVEL stories. Cover by Oksner. (11/22)

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STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (178, Feb.-March). "Sting of Death" is this issue's UNKNOWN SOLDIER tale by Frank Robbins and Jack Sparling, backed up by a Warrior Page on DaVinci and his machines of war by Sam Glanzman, and "A Nice Warm Day" by Robbins and Vicente Alcazar. (11/22)

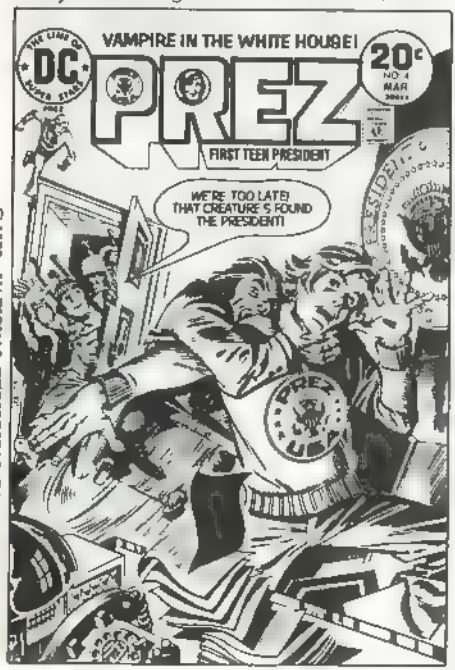
●

BLACK MAGIC (3, Feb.-March). Reprinted this issue from the 50's Simon and Kirby title are "Nasty Little Man", "Courts Of Sleep", and "Angel of Death." Cover by Grandenetti. (11/27)

WEIRD WAR TALES (22, February). In this issue: A nice old man trains bats to help the allies in "Wings of Death" by Jack Oleck and George Evans. Reprinted from WITCHING HOUR #9 is a one pager entitled "Day After Doomsday" by LenWein and Jack Sparling. This page will serve to introduce readers to this feature which will soon have new stories. And, "Last Rites for the Living" by Arnold Drake and Tony DiZuniga. Cover by Dominguez. (11/27)

SUPERGIRL (10, Feb.-March). The Maid of Might has an unusual guest star this issue... the President of the United States. More exactly, the PREZ of the USA, whom she has to save from assassanation attempts in "The Death of a Pres." Also, "Her Brother's Keeper." Both stories by Cary Bates, Artie Saaf, and Vinnie Colletta. Cover by Oksner. (11/27)

DETECTIVE SUPER-SPECTACULAR (439, Feb.-March). New material this issue includes the BATMAN in "Night of the Stalker", a tale written by Steve Englehart and drawn by Sal Amendola and Dick Giordano in which the BATMAN sees a young boy orphaned the same way he was and goes off after the killer. The first part of the MANHUNTER's origin is called "The Resurrection of Paul Kirk" by Archie Goodwin and Walt Simonson. Cover by Neal Adams. The reprints are: "Riddle of the Clown", another HAWKMAN/Ghost story from the Golden Age FLASH COMICS by Bob Kanigher and Joe Kubert, an



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ATOM/Time Pool story entitled "The Gold Hunter of '39" by Fox, Kane and Greene, an untitled KID ETERNITY story with excellent art by Raboy, an untitled DOCTOR FATE six-pager drawn by Howard Sherman, "The Tantalizing Troubles of the Tripod Thieves", a story featuring the ELONGATED MAN and ZATANNA by Fox and Infantino, and the second story in the Outsider series which appeared in DETECTIVE during the mid 60's called "Batman's Bewitched Nightmare" by Fox, Bob Kane and Giella. (11/29) (50¢)

WEIRD MYSTERY TALES (10, Feb.-March). In this issue: A sword and sorcery story entitled "The Curse" by Bill Riley and Gil Kane, "Lady Killer" by Jack Oleck and Alfredo Alcala, and "Sunken Pearls of Captain Hatch" by Mike Fleisher and Jess Jodloman. Cover by Dominguez. (11/29)

ACTION COMICS (432, February). When a new villain named Toyman appears on the scene, the old villain with the same name has to come out of retirement to see who has taken up where he left off in "Target of the Toy Men" by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Murphy Anderson. THE HUMAN TARGET takes on "The Million Dollar Methuseleh Contract" in this story by Len Wein and Dick Giordano. Cover by Cardy. (11/29)

TARZAN (228, February). Joe Kubert contributes another chapter in the life of the Apeman. (11/29)

Marvel Coming Comics

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (172, February). The Juggernaut returns, once again in the full bloom of youth, and helps The HULK escape the Air Force. Plot by Englehart (his last) and Isabella; script by Tony Isabella with art by Herb Trimpe and Jack Abel. (10/23)

KID COLT OUTLAW (179, February). (10/23)

TOMB OF DRACULA (17, February). "Death Rides The Rails" is this issue's tale by Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. The story takes place aboard a Transylvania-bound train and is a lead-in to next issue's DRACULA-WEREWOLF team-up. (10/23)

IRON MAN (66, February). Sorry, I don't have any details on this issue other than that it's written by Mike Friedrich and drawn by George Tuska and Mike Esposito. (10/23)

THE OUTLAW KID (20, February). (10/23)

WEIRD WONDER TALES (2, February). (10/23)

MARVEL TALES (49, February). This issue contains "The Impossible Escape" from SPIDER-MAN #65. Story by Stan Lee, art by John Romita and Jim Mooney. (10/23)

OUR LOVE STORY (27, February). (10/23)

●

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (129, February). The Punisher (loosely based on Executioner and Destroyer-type characters) and his assistant, the Jackal, are out hunting SPIDEY. Story by Gerry Conway with art by Ross Andru and Frank Giacoia. (10/30)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (170, February). CAP is framed for murder in this month's "J'Accuse." Meanwhile, the FALCON is visiting THE BLACK PANTHER in Wakanda where he is the recipient of a a modified costume and some special powers. The story was plotted by Steve Englehart, scripted by Mike Friedrich, and drawn by Sal Buscema and Vince Colletta. (10/30)

THOR (220, February). This issue concludes the Black Star trilogy. Script by Gerry Conway, art by John Buscema. (10/30)

TWO-GUN KID (116, February). (10/30)

VAULT OF EVIL (9, February). (10/30)

THE X-MEN (86, February). This issue should feature "The Sinister Shadow of Doomsday" (Stan Lee and Roy Thomas, and art by Don Heck and George Roussos) from X-MEN #38. (10/30)

DEAD OF NIGHT (2, February). (10/30)

WORLDS UNKNOWN (5, February). This issue features "Black Destroyer", adapted from a story by A. E. Van Vogt by Roy Thomas, Dan Adkins and Jim Mooney. (10/30)

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KULL THE DESTROYER (12, February). Kull is scheduled for beheading at the setting of the moon -- but then, Brule returns, along with the King's mistress, Narda, and a very strange amulet. KULL begins his guerilla war to regain his throne. KULL is still bi-monthly; it was merely delayed a month to move it to a different schedule than THONGOR. Steve Englehart, script, Mike Ploog and Sal Buscema, art. (10/30)

THE AVENGERS (120, February). The Zodiac Gang returns, with a star-driven machine that can destroy all people born under any chosen sign of the Zodiac! The SWORDSMAN collapses from the wound he received during The Clash, and another MANTIS Mystery is raised in "Night of the Collector" was written by Steve Englehart, and drawn by Bob Brown and Don Heck. (11/6)

ASTONISHING TALES (22, February). The COLOSSUS fights a hoard of gargoyles in "We, The Gargoyles," IT was written by Tony Isabella and drawn by Dick Ayers. (11/6)

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CONAN THE BARBARIAN (35, February). Roy Thomas' Flamewind saga continues in "Hell Spawn of Kara-Shera" with art by John Buscema and Ernie Chua. (11/6)

MAN-THING (2, February). "No Where To Go But Down" is this issue's MAN-THING story by Steve Gerber, Val Mayerick and Sal Trapani. (11/6)

THE GHOST RIDER (4, February). "Death Stalks The Demolition Derby" is this issue's story by Gary Friedrich, Jim Mooney and Vince Colletta. (11/6)

LUKE CAGE, POWERMAN (17, February). IRON MAN guest stars in this issue's "Rich Man, Iron Man, Powerman, Thief" by Len Wein, George Tuska, and Billy Graham. (11/6)

FEAR (20, February). MORBIUS begins his new series in FEAR, taking over the spot from MAN-THING, who has moved on to his own title. Script by Steve Gerber, art by Gil Kane. (11/6)

MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE (2, February). This issue should feature IRON MAN in "The Other Iron Man" (Stan Lee, Gene Colan and Frank Giacoia) and CAPTAIN AMERICA in "The Super-Adaptoid" (Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Frank Giacoia) from TALES OF SUSPENSE #84. (11/6)

●

FANTASTIC FOUR (143, February). The FF's old villain, Doctor Doom, returns in "The Terrible Triumph of Doctor Doom", scripted by Gerry Conway and illustrated by Rich Buckler and Frank Giacoia. (11/13)

MARVEL TEAM-UP (18, February). The team-up of the FF's own HUMAN TORCH with the Incedible HULK in "Where Bursts The Bomb" by Len Wein, Gil Kane, Frank Giacoia, and Mike Esposito. (11/13)

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT (14, February). The conclusion of last issue's Topaz-Taboo-WEREWOLF story. The WEREWOLF fights Algon, Taboo's mutant offspring. Also, the final confrontation between Jack Russell and his step-father! Script by Marv Wolfman, art by Mike Ploog and Frank Chiarmonte. (11/13)

SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION (16, February). Fu Manchu sends his prime assassin, Midnight, after Shang-Chi -- even though Midnight' and Shang-Chi are each other's closest friend. Midnight is an affectionate pastiche of The SHADOW. Scripted by Steve Englehart with art by Jim Starlin and Al Milgrom. (11/13)

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY (9, February). (11/13)

UNCANNY TALES (2, February). (11/13)

THE DEFENDERS (12, February). Len Wein takes over the writing end of the DEFENDERS with this issue. In this story, Xemu returns in "Titan Strikes Back." Len also begins a sub-plot involving the VALKYRIE. Art is by Sal Buscema and Jack Abel. (11/13)

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STRANGE TALES (172, February). New supporting charcters in the BROTHER VOODOO are introduced in this issue. BV fights the Dark Lord and the Cult of the Black Rooster in "Fiend in the Fog." Script by Len Wein, art by Gene Colan and Dick Giordano. (11/13)

●

Red Circle

Expansion of the Red Circle Comics line is definite, as discussion of possible new directions goes on. A mystery title (to go along with the current detective trend) is planned, and there's a slight possibility that some new renditions of old super-heroes may appear.

Meanwhile, the fourth issue of CHILLING ADVENTURES IN SORCERY has just come out. It contained stories by editor Gray Morrow, Vicente Alcazar, and Mike Sekowsky and Dick Giordano. A future issue of SORCERY will feature a story by Howie Chaykin. Alcazar will be doing stories regularly.

Charlton

Charlton plans to add another war title to their line, aptly titled WAR, later this year.

E-MAN #2 contains a new super-hero called KILLJOY, written and illustrated by Steve Ditko. It employs the same tone and politics used in MR. A. (We hope to have more news from Charlton next month.

●

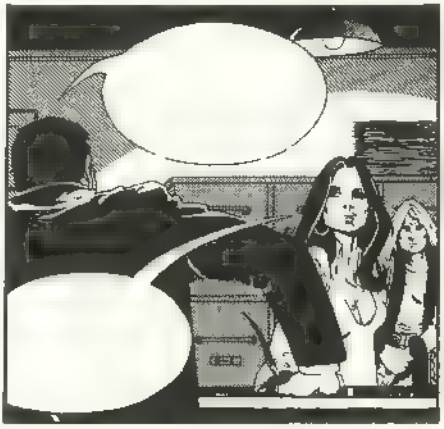
Warren

Warren Publishing will be bringing out two new titles in 1974, the first scheduled for release in early January. Details should be available soon.

Estoban Maroto has returned to Warren and you can be expecting new stories by him shortly.

VAMPIRELLA #30 - In this issue: Vampirella in "God of Blood" by Gonzalez, the baginning of a new series entitled "Her Name is Pantha' by Steve Skeates and Auraleon, 'Memoirs of a Killer ' by Fernandez, "Captain Death" by Carl Wessler and Munes. This issue's eight page color section is a beautiful job by Gerry Boudreau with art (and color) by Rich Corben called "As Though They Were Living." Cover by Henrich. (11/1)

CREEPY #59 - "Schreck" by Doug Moench and Neal Adams, "Curiosity Killed The Cat" by Paul Neary, a story by Rich Corben, and others. (12/13)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Panel from "Curiosity Killed The Cat," from CREEPY #59. Art by Paul Neary.

Et Al

DYNA PUBS, publishers of THE BUYER'S GUIDE, VINTAGE FUNNIES and FAVORITE FUNNIES, have announced plans to release a new title called FLASH-BACK. This magazine is planned to be a reprint project which will reprint completely some of the rarest first or early issues of the Golden Age.

Announced for republication in FLASHBACK were first issues of DOLL MAN, SPECIAL EDITION COMICS, PEP, MILITARY COMICS, U.S.A., CAPTAIN MARVEL, SPECIAL (Hangman), DARE-DEVIL, PLASTIC MAN, YOUNG ALLIES and possibly WHIZ COMICS (No. 2). The only announced non-first issue is ALL STAR COMICS #4.

Dyna Pubs claims complete authorization from anyone where needed, but our sources in New York, as we go to press, report that this may not be the case. The company in question is checking into this matter and we hope to report on this in more depth next issue.

●

The following letter was sent to us concerning the historical articles Paul ran last issue.

Dear Jerry and Mike,

Since you have assumed responsibility for THE COMIC READER, I send to you for publication in TCR, the following corrections on material in TCR #100.

In John McGeehan's article, "History of Fandom," he says, "... a longtime devotee of comic art, Donald Thompson, was working on the first issue of his all comic art zine, entitled, appropriately enough, COMIC ART. His first issue appeared..."

In "Rogue's Gallery," page 39, presumably by Paul Levitz, it is stated: "Two of ((the fanzines)), NEWFANGLES and THE ROCKET'S BLAST-COMICOLLECTOR, survived for five years and twelve years respectively. They, however, have had one editor on them for their durations."

Now, far be it from me to call anyone a chauvinist, but I have <u>never</u> in my life edited a fanzine all by myself. I did two issues of a club sf fanzine years ago with aid from several others and all "my" other fanzines, including COMIC ART and NEWFANGLES, were done in collaboration with someone who deserves equal credit and/or blame.

For the record, the first issues of CA were edited and published by Don Thompson and Maggie Curtis, later by Don and Maggie Thompson which does not represent a change of editorship (Maggie was sometimes listed as art editor, but always in a co-editorship capacity and she had her own editorial column). NEWFANGLES was always listed as from Don and Maggie Thompson.

Without Maggie, there would never have been any issues of either.

Now, Paul and John, I won't call you bigots, but I will ask you a question: If I had produced those fanzines in collaboration with a still-active <u>male</u> fan, would you still have given me <u>sole</u> credit?

Don Thompson

●

COMIC STRIP NEWS: DC war artist and former TERRY & THE PIRATES ghost George Evans, has ghosted most of the latest SECRET AGENT CORRIGAN story for Al Williamson, and DC war editor Archie Goodwin. For a number of days in late August and early September, Roy Crane drew BUZ SAWYER again. It is normally finished by Crane's assistant, Hank Schlensker. The FRIDAY FOSTER Sunday page for September 21 is ghosted by former LEGION and SUPERMAN artist, Winslow Mortimer. Our guess is that Jorge Longaron's page for that day was lost in the mails between here and Europe. And if anyone could tell us who is ghosting the daily FLASH GORDON strip these days (whose latest story bears an uncanny resemblance to the plot of the GENISIS II pilot by Gene Roddenberry shown twice on CBS this year), please let us know.

●

Does anyone know who Harry Foster Welch really is? According to a widely circulated UPI story, Welch, who died at the age of 74 in Blowing Rock, N. C., was the voice of Popeye for forty years. However, the real voice of Popeye has been Jack Mercer since the mid-thirties. And the same story claims that he also did the early voices of Olive Oyl and Bluto, which is impossible since Mae Questel (seen often these days in commercials) claims to have done Olive from the start. It is doubtful that Welch was on the '30s radio show either -- Mae Questel says that when Mercer was overseas during the war, they tried another man but he had mike fright -- and SHE had to do the voice of Popeye. Welch may have been a personal-appearance Popeye -- but not for forty years, since the wire-service's beginning date of 1927 predates E. C. Segar's creation of Popeye by two years.

Announcement by Nostalgia Press has not yet been officially made, but a JUNGLE JIM hard cover book is in the planning stages. For this reason, the inclusion of JUNGLE JIM in The Menomonee Falls GAZETTE has been held up in order to see which of Alex Raymond's ten or eleven years will be published in the book. In the meantime, The GAZETTE has been reprinting CONNIE Sundays by Frank Godwin from 1936.

■

The first Los Angeles monthly (first Sunday) comic book-serial-science fiction convention will be held at the Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Sunday November 4, 1973, from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Adult admission is $1.00, children is 50¢. For further information contact Greg Koudoulian, 635 N. Citrus, Hollywood, CA 90036.

●

It is our unhappy duty to announce that the long awaited ETCETERA No. 4 will not be published. Publisher Paul Levitz and Editor Paul Kupperberg have found that their new college schedules will not allow them to continue the magazine. Refunds will be made.

NOSTALGIA NEWS has added to their original, announced line-up of strip reprints: ALLEY OOP daily, starting with Strip #1 from August 7, 1933; FLASH GORDON from 1956, and THIMBLE THEATRE (Popeye) from 1941. Sub rates remain the same.

●

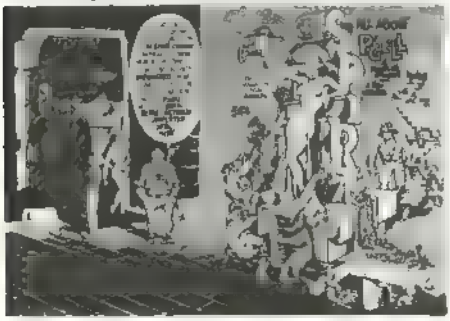
Bill Vigoda, longtime MLJ and Archie Comics artist, died of a heart attack in late July.

●

Metro Con is planned for November 24th and 25th in Silver Spring, Maryland at the Adult Education Center located on the University of Maryland's College Park campus. Tentative guests include Walt Simonson, Howie Chaykin, Mike Kaluta, Berni Wrightson and Steve Hickman. Other professionals are not definite, but may appear. Single rooms are $14, doubles are $18. These accomodations are for parents or younger fans accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. Admission fee will be $1 per day. Dealers are advised to write: Comic Art Society, 13006 Autumn Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904.

Undergrounds

From Krupp Comics Works comes the release of the second issue of THE SPIRIT. The book features four stories from the late forties that feature one of Eisner's femme fatales, P'gell. Also included is a new four page story by Eisner done especially for the book. The wrap-around cover by Will Eisner and the introduction by John Benson round out the book. This second issue has been given more attention than the first, with Eisner personally touching up and having screens added to the reprinted stories to give them a better appearance in the black and white reproduction.



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West coast publishers have come out with LEATHER NUN and BAKERSFIELD COMICS. FREAK BROTHERS #3 should see print before Christmas. The Print Mint may be quitting publishing if sales do not improve before January.

Current underground comix sales are less than the same time last year, though not as bad as this summer, described by publishers and retailers as "disastrous." The drop in sales has been linked to a possible peaking of the underground comix market in the past. While past years have seen a constant increase in sales, this past year has seen the first of what appears to be a gradual disappearance of much of the market. Coupled with rising paper costs, the market faces a dismal future.

BIJOU COMIX #8 is expected to go to press in the next few weeks. It features a Harvey Kurtzman cover and is in full color insides. A planned Russ Heath item was not finished in time to be included.

Krupp Comic Works' SNARF #5 will also feature a Kurtzman cover. The title is on hold while the uncertain market is scrutinized. The title may be out before Christmas. Krupp is coming out, meanwhile, with a line of underground Xmas cards.

A Letter from the Editors

For those of you who weren't listening last issue, we're not Paul Levitz. We are, from left to right, Jerry and Mike, who are otherwise gainfully employed with the task of publishing two weekly all-comic newspapers, The Menomonee Falls GAZETTE, and The Menomonee Falls GUARDIAN. As neophyte news reporters (no, we will not reveal our sources) we hope that we can maintain the high level of accuracy and up-to-the-minute reporting you've come to expect of THE COMIC READER. We have, as our help mate and New York Editor, Paul Kupperberg, who assisted Paul Levitz for most of his reign as editor. He will make sure that we have the news to publish, and we'll make sure that it gets to you. Other staff members include Bob Staszak, who is in charge of subscriptions, and Ron Tiefenbacher, who is in charge of mailing.

We feel that it might be in our interests to restate the purposes of this magazine, as well as state our goals. First, we would like to emphasize that TCR is a NEWS magazine, and as such, we do not intend to editorialize in our news departments. We feel that, while it is not wrong to have strong convictions, the news pages are not the place to vent those views. Certainly, all of our news is cleared with the various companies involved; we would not be in business very long as a dependable news source if we published rumors, third hand information and personal gossip tidbits that are, quite frankly, none of our or your business. We feel that having our news reinforced by official approval means having accurate news -- and there is nothing worse than inaccuracy in news.

That the aforementioned methods result in our being a public relations branch of each comic book company is undeniable. It is our function to report what will appear on the newsstands, and it is unavoidable that this reporting take the same appearance that advertising would. But, what of it? What are we here for -- the alienation of the Comic Company, or the preservation of the comic book as a mass medium? We believe the latter is true. We don't look upon that purpose as something noble, rather we believe it to be merely something we can do to make sure something we truly love perpetuates.

We hope that TCR can be the TV GUIDE of a medium that is not too disimilar from television in demographics. And, because of this, we hope to someday see that our news cover not only National, Marvel and Warren -- but also, the littler groups like Charlton, Red Circle-Archie, Harvey, Gold Key and Skywald -- no matter the type of comic. We make no bones about our love for super-heroes, but we think we are being discrimatory by NOT listing funny animal, teen-age and romance comics, since people do buy them. Also, TCR retains value as a historical record of what was published, and the more complete our listings, the more accurate will will be the price guides, indices and research projects of the future.

Not the least of our goals is to see that you enjoy TCR. We hope we succeed.

Jerry and Mike

Fanzine Reviews

INFINITY 5 is an art zine with some interesting articles. In general it is well produced and a nicely packaged zine.

A Todd cover in process color of green humanoids, a man and a maid with a weird set of planets serving as background, opens the issue. Impressive but not to my taste. The inside front cover is a portrait of a rock star by Yeates.

The editorial is next, dealing with the "why" of artzines, among other things. You have heard it all before, especially the comments on the material in this issue. I think the editorial space was misused as some comments might be better said in Viewpoints.

A portfolio of four watercolors by Maroto are presented in black and white. If you like Maroto, then you will like this portfolio even though it suffers in black and white. Jan Strnad conducts an interview with the one and only Richard Corben. This interview is the best one that has appeared in Infinity to date. The interview is fairly typical in some areas (ie., what are you doing, who's your favorite artist, etc. ...) but has much more depth and is very informative as to Richard Corben, his life, and his work. Well done, Jan.

A two page strip about Tarzan at the '68 Chicago riot follows. If you are anti-establishment (I am not) you will like the

story and dialogue but no matter what your politics are, you will enjoy the graphics, which are great. I also really enjoyed Tarzan's conclusions re: civilization.

Jan Strnad returns with a fictional story in which a man goes insane because he is a failure and sees himself as such in a mirror. Todd contributes a portfolio of work from a project he is working on. It is very weird but it might grow on you.

This is followed by a convention report on Creation 72. I hardly think this was necessary as the con was about 8 months ago and this report just covers the basics. The writing is good and there are some photos and art to go with the report, but it doesn't go anywhere. Al Williamson is represented by some rough sketches.

A report on "The Rise and Fall of Warp" is one of the high points of the issue. Warp is a sci-fi/comic book play based on the old theme of good versus evil. Doug Murray covers the history of Warp, from the premiere in Chicago, Neal Adams becoming art director, the debut on Broadway, the unfairness of the critics, and the death of the play on Broadway. Drawings of the costumes of the characters by Adams accompany the article. Very nice, well worth reading.

Viewpoints (LETTERS), a strip by Todd, a Junkwaffel strip by Bode, art by the usual people, Harper, Morrow, and Krenkel, all round out the issue.

A Berni Wrightson color print of a musical band of monsters is included with the issue. The back cover by Kaluta is like one of the '30s pulp covers. It is simply fantastic.

I was not as impressed by this issue as I was by #4, however I think that you will enjoy the issue. I recommend it for the Corben interview, the Warp article, the Maroto portfolio, and the Kaluta cover.

INFINITY # 5 - 52 pages

Send $3.50 to: Gary Berman
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Flushing, NY 11365

●

COMIC CRUSADER 14, the latest issue of Marty Greim's fine fanzine, focuses on magic, the central theme of this issue. It is explored in form of comic book and comic strip magicians, past and present, with the majority being from the Golden Age.

The first magician to be treated is Ibis. Fujitake contributes a two page strip retelling the origin of Ibis and why he was in America in the '40s. Ray Miller gives an almost issue by issue history of the strip concentrating on the most significant issues. Later, he lumps issues together in the interest of covering the entire series. He also goes into the writers and artists of Ibis. Miller's article is a superior and welldone job. The art by Greim and Kato illustrating the article is very good and the art enhances the article, rather than detracts from it.

Fred Fredericks, the artist on Mandrake, is interviewed by Marty. The interview covers the usual areas that an interview covers with the answers by Fredericks being fun, enjoyable and enlightening.

Bob Cosgrove goes into the technical side of pencilling, telling how to pencil, how to acheive different effects, etc. As examples he uses the subsequent three sketches (4 pages). The art is a Merlin and an early rendering of the Demon by Kirby and a Wonder Woman by Steranko.

Mr. Mystic is the subject of Tom Fagan's article. This article has the usual high qualities of Tom's work. This well researched and well written article seems to be filled with fond remembrances of something you have loved in the past. Once again well layed out pages mix text and art in just the right way.

The Simon and Kirby comic book of '50s, BLACK MAGIC, is analyzed by Bob Cosgrove. He relates a short history of the book, breakdowns of the stories, and the artists and writers that worked on the book.

Steve Ditko's "H (Hero)" series starts in this issue. The art is good Ditko and so is the story. But the black and white attitude and the moralizing have worn a bit thin for me. The story picks up as the Hero's brother is worked over by loan sharks and the Hero decides to stop them. It is to be continued next issue.

This issue is on a par with the last two, which were great. I highly recommend Comic Crusader because of the high quality and interesting contents.

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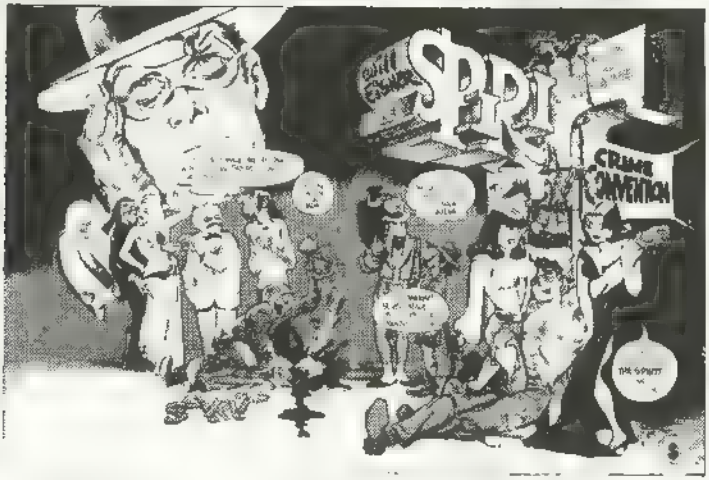

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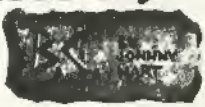
CAPTAIN EASY SOLDIER OF FORTUNE  MICKEY FINN

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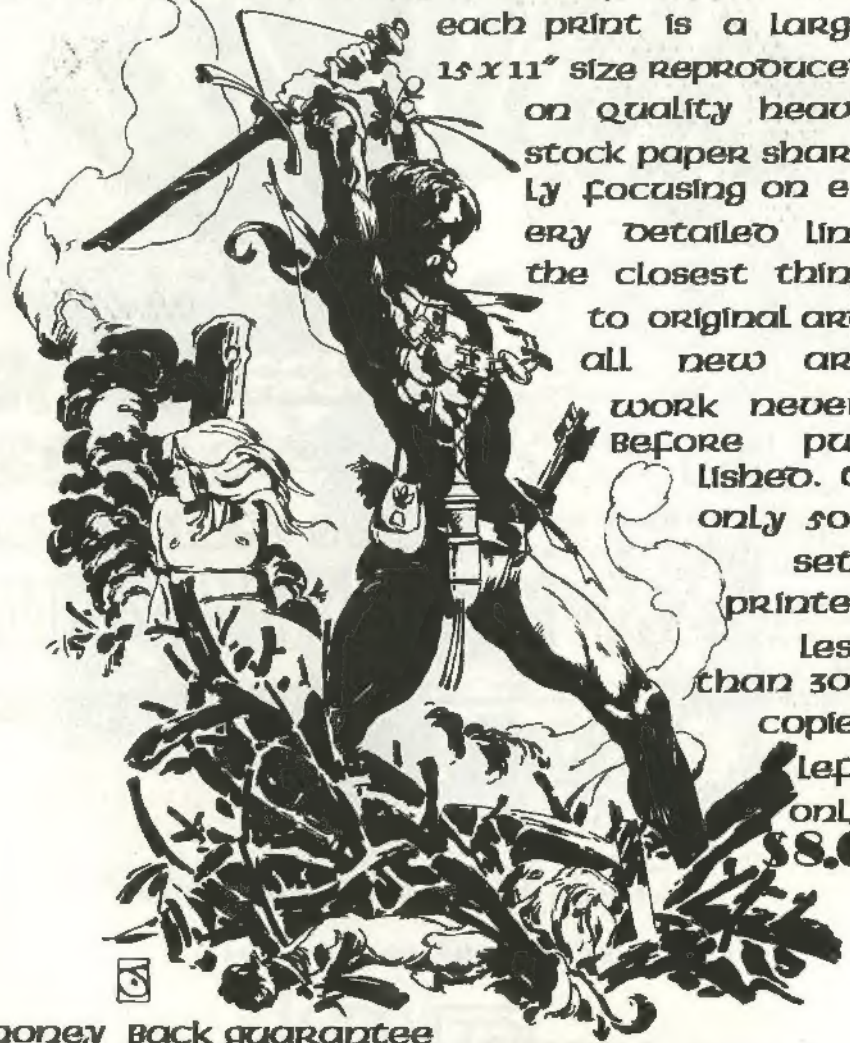

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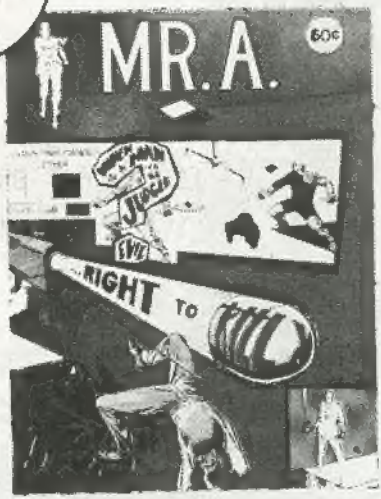

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